

VERBESINA (SECT. PTEROPHYTON) FELGERI (ASTERACEAE)
A NEW SPECIES FROM SONORA MEXICO

BILLIE L. TURNER

Department of Botany, The University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712

ABSTRACT

Verbesina felgeri, a new species from Sonora Mexico belonging to the Sect. *Pterophyton* is described and illustrated. It is related to *V. tetraptera* but differs in its smaller heads and deeply 3-lobed leaves.

The west facing declivities of the Sierra Madre Occidentale in Southern Sonora and Sinaloa are poorly known floristically. The species described below is related to a group of taxa belonging to the Section *Pterophyton* of *Verbesina* (Robinson and Greenman, 1899), mostly centered in Jalisco and surrounding areas (McVaugh, 1972; 1984).

VERBESINA FELGERI B. L. TURNER, sp. nov.

Verbesina tetraptera *accedens* sed folia grosse dentata 3-lobata, capitula minora, floribus paucioribus.

Suffrutescent perennial herb to 1 m tall. Stems brittle, densely scabrous-hispid, prominently winged. Leaves opposite, 5-18 cm long, 3-10 cm wide, obovate to ovate in outline, prominently 3-lobed, the lateral lobes 1-5 cm long, scabrous-hispid on both surfaces with broad-based hairs; petioles 1-6 cm long, broadly winged throughout, extending onto the stems; blades with 3 principal lower nerves, essentially pinnately veined above, the margins coarsely and irregularly dentate. Heads 1-5, terminal on short winged peduncles 1-3 cm long. Involucre campanulate to hemispheric, 11-13 mm high, 14-16 mm wide, 4-5 seriate, rather evenly imbricate; bracts lanceolate to linear-oblongate, the outermost hispid, 4-6 mm long, the innermost 11-12 mm long, ciliate, hispidulous, scarios, yellowish. Ray florets 8-13, pistillate, fertile; corollas yellow, the ligules 5-6 mm long. Disk florets 30-50; corollas yellow, tubular, glabrous, ca 8 mm long, the limb ca 7 mm long; style branches with acute to acuminate hispid appendages; anthers yellow. Achene ca. 7 mm long, glabrous, prominently winged; pappus of 2 bristles 3-4 mm long.

TYPE: Mexico. SONORA: Canon de Nacapules, ca 6 km NE of Bahia San Carlos, deep riparian canyon with thornscrub (Ficus, Coccoloba, Vallesia, palms, etc. 19 Oct 1984. S. Felger, J. Aronson, & A. Shmida 84-97 (holotype TEX; isotypes ARIZ, MEXU, RSA).

According to the collectors the species was collected in a "canyon bottom, in shade near north-facing wall". It is also said to be a rare, short-lived, perennial ca 1 m tall.

There is no question but what the species is properly positioned in the Section Pterophyton of Verbesina where it has no strikingly close relatives, although it seems on total characters closest to V. tetraptera or possibly V. hispida McVaugh. The latter differs from V. felgeri in its reflexed leaf-like involucre bracts and elongate monocephalic peduncles. Their achenes and disk corollas, are however, quite similar.

McVaugh (1984), in his Flora Novo-Galeciana accounts for most of the species included in the Sec. Pterophyton. In this Verbesina felgeri will key (with difficulty!) to V. pedunculosa (DC.) B.L. Rob, a species with solitary heads on elongate peduncles and leafy outer involucre bracts.

I am grateful to Dr. James Henrickson for bringing to my attention the species described and to Dr. M.C. Johnston for the Latin diagnosis. Linda Vorobick provided the illustration.

LITERATURE CITED

- McVaugh, R. 1972. Compositarum Mexicanarum Pugillus. Contr. Univ. Michigan Herb., 9: 359-484.
- _____. 1984. Verbesina, In Flora Novo-Galician 12: 963-1013.
- Robinson, B.L. and J.M. Greenman. 1899. A synopsis of the genus Verbesina. Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts 34: 534-564.

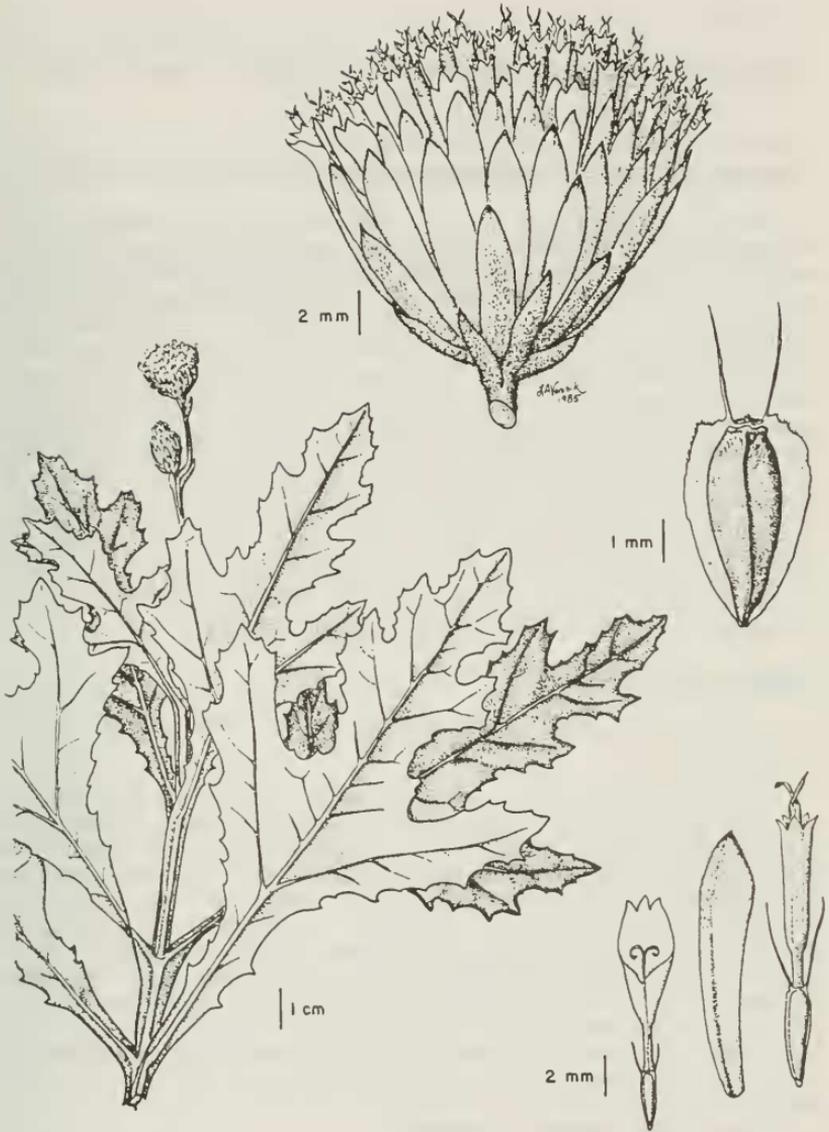


Fig. 1. *Verbesina felgeri* (from holotype).